

I write in reference to the Petition 04-160 (the "Petition") filed by the National Association of Broadcasters ("NAB") asking the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") to restrict XM Satellite Radio ("XM") from continuing to provide local traffic and weather information or to expand the local information provided via XM, such as local news, sports and similar information. I oppose the Petition, and respectfully urge the FCC to reject it. I have been a subscriber to XM for less than a year. Recently XM has begun to provide local traffic and weather information in the major metropolitan areas, including, Dallas-Fort Worth, where I live. I benefit greatly from the local traffic and weather information provided by XM; moreover, I would benefit even more from further local programming from XM. The quality of programming on XM, which I am willing to pay for, far surpasses that available on broadcast radio, and local information such as this enhances the value of XM to me. I also am in favor of allowing XM to provide local information via the "repeater" devices which permit clear reception of the XM signal in metropolitan and other congested areas.

Prior to the advent of local traffic and weather on XM, I did not listen to local broadcast radio, and removing these services from XM will not change my listening habits due to the generally dismal quality of broadcast radio (with one exception on the AM dial which I will not name) and excessive, repetitive and annoying commercials.

Unlike local broadcast radio, XM's traffic and weather information is available on demand, not when the local broadcasters choose to provide it. It is available when needed. Also, XM local traffic information would be of value to truckers and other over-the-road drivers who can plan alternate routes around metropolitan areas that are experiencing unusual traffic problems by providing that information when the drivers are beyond the broadcast range of local broadcasters. What interest do local broadcasters have restricting this type of information with respect to listeners who are beyond their normal broadcast range?

I also object to the political content that is inherent in many broadcast radio formats, where so-called DJ's and radio personalities, without announcing the fact that they have or are pushing a political viewpoint or agenda, attempt to impose their political views on their listeners. Even so-called entertainment programming is permeated with political bias and agendas that are neither needed nor wanted.

On XM, if I want music, I can have music, if I want editorial or political opinion, I can have that, if I want weather, sports or news, I can have that also. There is no logical reason, and the NAB has presented none, why I should not have access to local information via XM if I am willing to pay for the privilege.

In short, I respectfully urge that the NAB's petition to prevent XM from providing local news, weather and other local information is protective, monopolistic and anticompetitive. Broadcast radio's only motivation for the Petition is that it simply does not wish to have to compete with XM on a level playing field, because to do so, broadcasters would have to greatly increase the quality of their programming.

For these reasons, I urge that the NAB's Petition 04-160 should be rejected and that the Commission should support XM's ability to provide the kind of programming that demand, need and deserve.

Respectfully,

Russell Chapman
Dallas